

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ALBACORE
FISHING EFFORT CHARACTERIZATION

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) amends its original report which defined the current level of effort for the U.S. albacore fishery by all gear types in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) jurisdiction of the North Pacific as, “a range from 1996-2006 of the number of commercial vessels that have landed any amount of albacore over that time period. For the U.S. fishery it is recognized that the U.S. has a recreational harvest of albacore that must be recognized but is not currently included in the definition of current effort.”

Instead, the HMSAS recommends that the current level of effort for the U.S. albacore fishery within the IATTC’s jurisdiction of the North Pacific be defined as “a range from 1996-2006 of the number of *troll/baitboat* vessels that have landed any amount of albacore over that time period. *The US also has minor albacore harvest by other fleets that must be considered. Other fleets with minor albacore catch include, but are not limited to longline, gillnet, purse seine, and handline fleets.* The U.S. also has a recreational harvest of albacore that must be recognized but is not presently included in the definition of current effort.”

In the interest of informed decision-making and improved management, the HMSAS suggests that the Highly Migratory Species Management Team forward all relevant effort characterization information to the U.S. delegations that will be attending international sessions of the IATTC and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. This information includes but is not limited to various effort characterization approaches such as vessel days, recent U.S. landings, fleet descriptions, etc.

PFMC
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